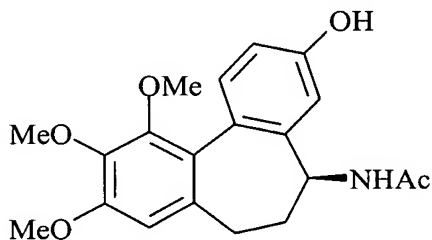


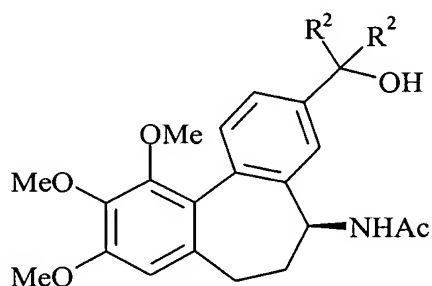
IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A process for the preparation of ZD6126 Phenol:



ZD6126 Phenol

from a ZD6126 Alcohol of formula (II):



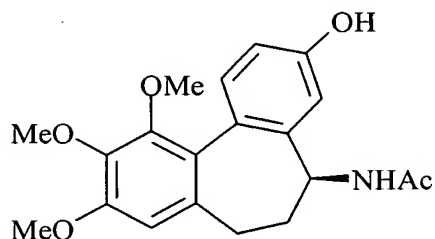
(II)

wherein R² are each independently hydrogen, C₁₋₄alkyl or aryl which comprises:
reacting said ZD6126 Alcohol of formula (II) with an acid catalyst and an oxidising agent.

2. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein the acid catalyst is a sulfonic acid.
3. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein the acid catalyst is methanesulfonic acid.
4. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of a solvent selected from an aromatic solvent, an ester and an ether.
5. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the reaction is carried out in an aromatic solvent selected from toluene and chlorobenzene, or a mixture of two or more of said solvents.

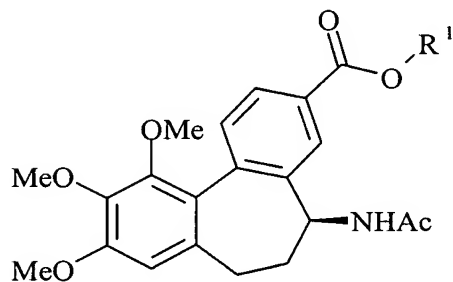
6. (Original)

A process for the preparation of ZD6126 Phenol:



ZD6126 Phenol

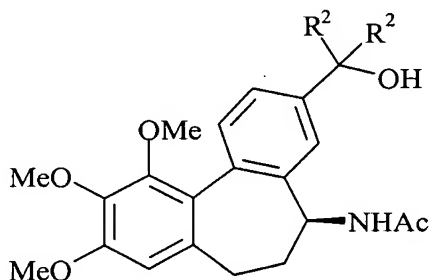
from an allocolchicine or an ester derivative thereof of formula (I):



(I)

wherein R¹ is hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl or aryl; which comprises:

a) reacting said allocolchicine or an ester derivative thereof of formula (I) with a suitable organometallic reagent and / or a suitable reducing agent; in one or more ethereal solvents to form ZD6126 Alcohol of formula (II):



(II)

wherein R² is hydrogen, C₁₋₄alkyl or aryl; and

b) reacting ZD6126 Alcohol of formula (II) with an acid catalyst and an oxidising agent.

7. (Original)

A process according to claim 6, wherein R¹ is C₁₋₄alkyl or aryl.

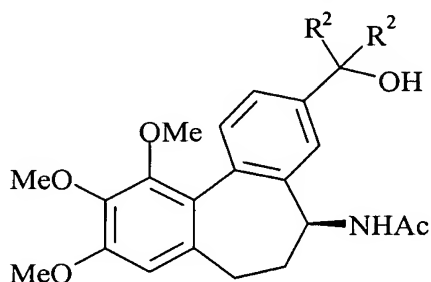
8. (Original) A process according to claim 6, wherein in step a) of the process the allocolchicine or an ester derivative thereof of formula (I) is reacted with a suitable organometallic reagent and wherein R^1 is C_{1-4} alkyl or aryl.
9. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of~~ claims 6 ~~to~~ 8, wherein the organometallic reagent in step a) of the process is selected from a compound of the formula R^2-X , wherein R^2 is as defined claim 6 and X is a magnesium halide or lithium.
10. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of~~ claims 6 ~~to~~ 8, wherein the organometallic reagent in step a) is methyllithium.
11. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of~~ claims 6 ~~to~~ 10, wherein the one or more etheral solvents is selected from tetrahydrofuran, diethyl ether, diethoxymethane, 2-ethoxyethylether, 2-methoxyethyl ether and dimethoxy ethane, or a mixture of one or more of said solvents.
12. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of~~ claims 6 ~~to~~ 11, wherein in step a) the allocolchicine or an ester derivative thereof of formula (I) is added to a reaction mixture comprising the organometallic reagent.
13. (Original) A process according to claim 12, wherein the organometallic reagent is methyllithium.
14. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of~~ claims 6 ~~to~~ 13, wherein the acid catalyst in step b) is a sulfonic acid.
15. (Original) A process according to claim 14, wherein the acid catalyst in step b) is methanesulfonic acid.
16. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of~~ claims 6 ~~to~~ 15, wherein in step b) of the process is carried out in the presence of a solvent selected from an aromatic solvent, an ester and an ether.

17. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of~~ claims 6 to 15, wherein in step b) of the process is carried out in the presence of an aromatic solvent selected from toluene and chlorobenzene, or a mixture of two or more of said solvents.

18. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of~~ claims 6 to 17, wherein the process is effected in one stage, without isolation of ZD6126 Alcohol of formula (II).

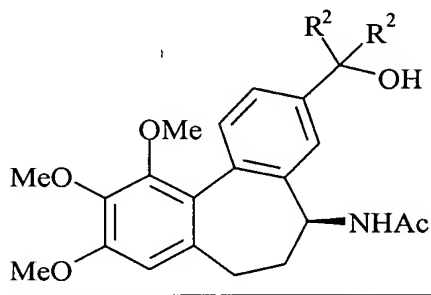
19. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of~~ claims 6 to 8, wherein R^1 is C_{1-4} alkyl.

20. (Currently Amended) A ZD6126 Alcohol of formula (II)



wherein R^2 are each independently hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl or aryl as defined in Claim 1, with the proviso that R^2 cannot both be methyl or both be hydrogen.

21. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a ZD6126 Alcohol of the formula (II)

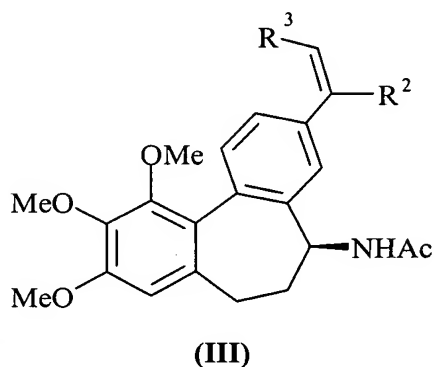


wherein R^2 are each independently hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl or aryl as defined in claim 6 which comprises reacting allocolchicine or an ester derivative thereof the formula (I) as defined in

claim 6 with a suitable organometallic reagent and/or suitable reducing agent in one or more ethereal solvents.

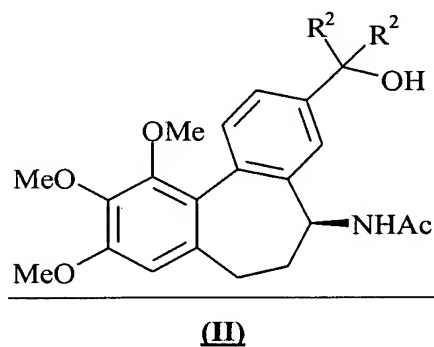
22. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a ZD6126 Alcohol of formula (II) as defined in claim 1, in a process for the preparation of ZD6126 Phenol~~ A method for preparing a ZD6126 phenol which comprises converting an optionally substituted methylol group of a ZD6126 alcohol into a hydroxy.

23. (Original) A ZD6126 Alkene of formula (III):



wherein R^2 is hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl or aryl and R^3 is hydrogen or C_{1-3} alkyl.

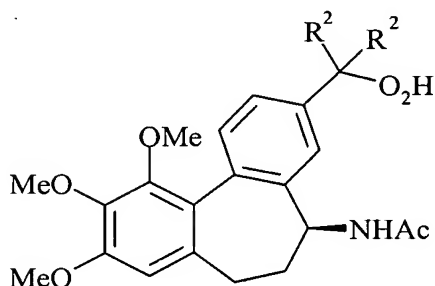
24. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of ZD6126 Alkene of formula (III) as defined in claim 23 which comprises reacting a ZD6126 Alcohol of the formula (II)



wherein R^2 are each independently hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl or aryl as defined in claim 1 ~~wherein at least one R^2 group is C_{1-4} alkyl, with an acid catalyst.~~

25. (Original) A process for the preparation of a ZD6126 Phenol which comprises reacting a ZD6126 Alkene of formula (III) as defined in claim 23 with an acid catalyst and an oxidising agent.

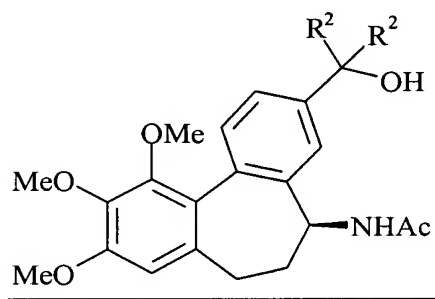
26. (Original) A ZD6126 Hydroperoxide of formula (IV):



(IV)

wherein R^2 are each independently hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl or aryl.

27. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a ZD6126 Hydroperoxide of formula (IV) as defined in claim 26 which comprises reacting a ZD6126 Alcohol of the formula (II)

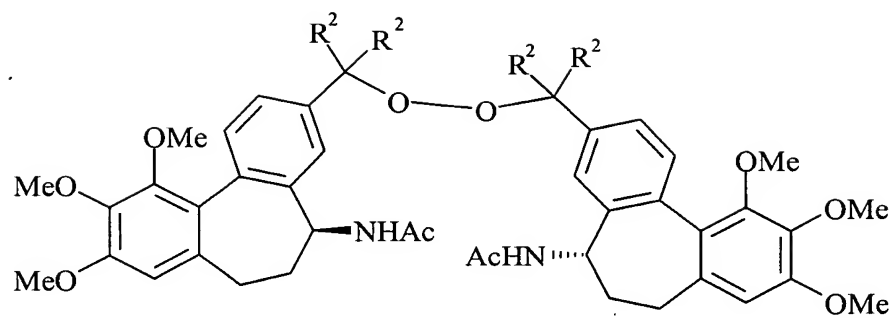


(II)

wherein R^2 are each independently hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl or as defined in claim 1 with an acid catalyst and oxidising agent.

28. (Original) A process for the preparation of ZD6126 Phenol which comprises reacting a ZD6126 Hydroperoxide of formula (IV) as defined in claim 26 with an acid catalyst.

29. (Original) A ZD6126 Reactive Dimer of formula (V):



(V)

wherein R^2 are each independently hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl or aryl.